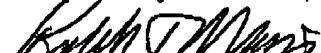


Group I, claims 1-6, 15-24, 25-32, drawn to quaternary ammonium compounds and a viscosity modifying agent, an ore flotation aid, and a surfactant composition which may contain quaternary ammonium compounds; and

Group II, claims 7-14, drawn to a process for preparing the multiple functional quaternary ammonium compounds and the multiple functional hydrophilic/hydrophobic compounds obtained from the reaction of an amine with a dicarboxylic acid.

In response to the restriction requirement applicants elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-6, 15-24 and 25-32 on the merits. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the requirement is improper. More specifically, Groups I and II are related in that they describe a product and a process for making such product, which should be considered to have unity under 37 C.F.R. 1.475. For this reason, applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the subject restriction requirement and examine all of the pending claims on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph J. Mancini
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,054

Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept.
7 Livingstone Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-3408
(914) 674-5465